

Watershed/Landscape Analysis

Watershed Analysis is a systematic procedure for the collection and compilation of information used to develop resource management prescriptions, monitoring programs, and restoration strategies. It is an analytical step to support informed decision making; it is **not** a decision making process. A watershed analysis may result in an evolving document, driven by specific issues. As more information is gathered about a watershed and as additional management activities occur, an analysis may be updated to include this new information. Watershed analysis is required in Key Watersheds prior to management and to change the boundaries of Riparian Reserves in any watershed as defined in the Northwest Forest Plan.

In FY 95, watershed analyses were completed for three Key Watersheds in the Klamath Falls Resource Area: Jenny Creek, Clover Creek and Spencer Creek. Key Watersheds are a system of large refugia comprising watersheds that are crucial to at-risk fish species or fish stocks and provide high quality water. Refugia are designated areas that either provide, or are expected to provide, high quality habitat. The Jenny Creek watershed is shared between the Klamath Falls Resource Area and the Ashland Resource Area of the BLM's Medford District. About 24% of this 134,000 acre watershed is located in Klamath County, 12,000 acres of which are managed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area.

The Clover Creek and Spencer Creek watersheds were analyzed in the Spencer Creek Pilot Watershed Analysis which was completed in August of 1995. Clover Creek is a tributary to Spencer Creek. Fifteen watershed analysis in the Pacific Northwest were chosen as part of the Pilot Watershed Analysis Program. The Spencer Creek Watershed Analysis was one. Each Pilot Watershed Analysis is to be reviewed after completion to see how it meets the following objectives of the Pilot Watershed Analysis Program:

- *Test the *Federal Agency Guide for Pilot Watershed Analysis* and the 8-step Watershed Analysis process;
- *Explore ways to improve interagency and intergovernmental coordination; and
- *Demonstrate ecosystem-based management that produces commodities while minimizing environmental risks.

The team of specialists for this analysis was comprised of individuals from several Federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Winema National Forest, and the Klamath Falls Resource Area BLM. Public participation in the development of issues and in gathering information about the watershed was an integral part of the analysis process; members of a Coordinated Resource Management Planning group active in this watershed provided invaluable assistance. Of the 54,000 acres in this watershed, 16% is administered by the BLM.

In FY 96, a watershed/landscape analysis (Topsy/Pokegama Landscape Analysis) will be completed for the portion of the Klamath Falls Resource Area that lies south of Highway 66, west of Highway 97 and north of the Oregon-California border. Of the 171,000 acres in the analysis area, about 30,000 are administered by the Klamath Falls BLM. This analysis, in combination with the three completed watershed analyses listed above, completes the watershed analysis requirements for those lands within the resource area subject to the Northwest Forest Plan. If you are interested in reviewing any of these documents, contact A. Barron Bail, Klamath Falls Resource Area Manager, at 541-885-4101 or fill in the questionnaire at the back of this mailer (page 69).